

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/CSB/OSB:JRGRAHAME:CJR

APPROVED BY E - MR. ROBINSON

EB/CSB - MR. BILLER

EB/CSB/OSB - MR. BRAMANTE

NEA/INS - MR. MORLEY

NEA - MR. DUBS (DRAFT)

S/S - O: J. HOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024333

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USINJC, IN, US

SUBJECT: JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 19658

1. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF THE INDIA JOINT COMMISSION FROM ITS INCEPTION. I REGARD THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL, DUE TO CONVENE IN NEW DELHI ON MONDAY, AS A PARTICULARLY VALUABLE SPIN-OFF OF THE JOINT COMMISSION AND AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF INCREASING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION THEREIN. MY MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THIS FIRST MEETING (REFTEL) WAS INTENDED TO CONVEY THIS ASSESSMENT.

2. EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE SECRETARY REAFFIRMED THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT COMMISSION-RELATED BODIES (SUCH AS THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL) WILL REMAIN IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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SULATED FROM THE FLUCTUATIONS IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS.

THUS, DESPITE MRS. GANDHI'S RECENT UNJUSTIFIED
CRITICISM OF THE U.S. AND REGARDLESS OF THE CONCRETE
STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO EXPRESS OUR DISMAY, JOINT
COMMISSION-RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE PROCEEDING AS
SCHEDULED, ALTHOUGH AT A LOWER U.S. PROFILE, WHEN I
BRIEFED ORVILLE FREEMAN AND THE U.S. SECTION OF THE

BUSINESS COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, I STRESSED THE DEPARTMENT'S
INTEREST IN THEIR WORK AND CONVEYED OUR THOUGHTS ON THE
NECESSITY OF INSULATING IT FROM FLUCTUATIONS IN INDO-
U.S. RELATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND YOUR DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE
IN THIS PRIVATE SECTOR MEETING, I AM PLEASED YOU WILL BE
MEETING PRIVATELY WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION ON FEBRUARY 2.
I HOPE THAT YOUR ADVICE TO THIS GROUP WILL MAINTAIN THE
THRUST OF MY BRIEFING TO THEM AND REFLECT THE DEPARTMENT'S
ENCOURAGEMENT OF AND INTEREST IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN
THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL AND ITS GOAL OF STRENGTHENING
INDO-U.S. BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL TIES. KISSINGER

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